

## INTRODUCTION

EnSight command files are useful for restoring the system to a state reached in a previous session. However, restoring a long session dealing with large files can be a tedious process. Fortunately, EnSight provides an archiving mechanism that saves only the current state of the system, rather than the entire history of a session.

This capability is useful not only for large data files with several active variables, but also for saving a standard starting point for sessions. In the initial session, geometry can be loaded, variables activated, a good viewpoint selected, and an archive written. Subsequent sessions take advantage of this investment by merely loading the archive (which can be done as you start EnSight from the command line).

The client and server each write separate binary files containing the complete current state of the respective processes. Since these files are binary, they can be quickly written and restored. Note that an archive only contains information resident in either client or server memory at the time of the archive. No information is available for variables that were inactive or time steps other than the current. For this reason, you should never remove the original dataset and attempt to use the archive as a substitute (unless you know what you're doing).

## BASIC OPERATION

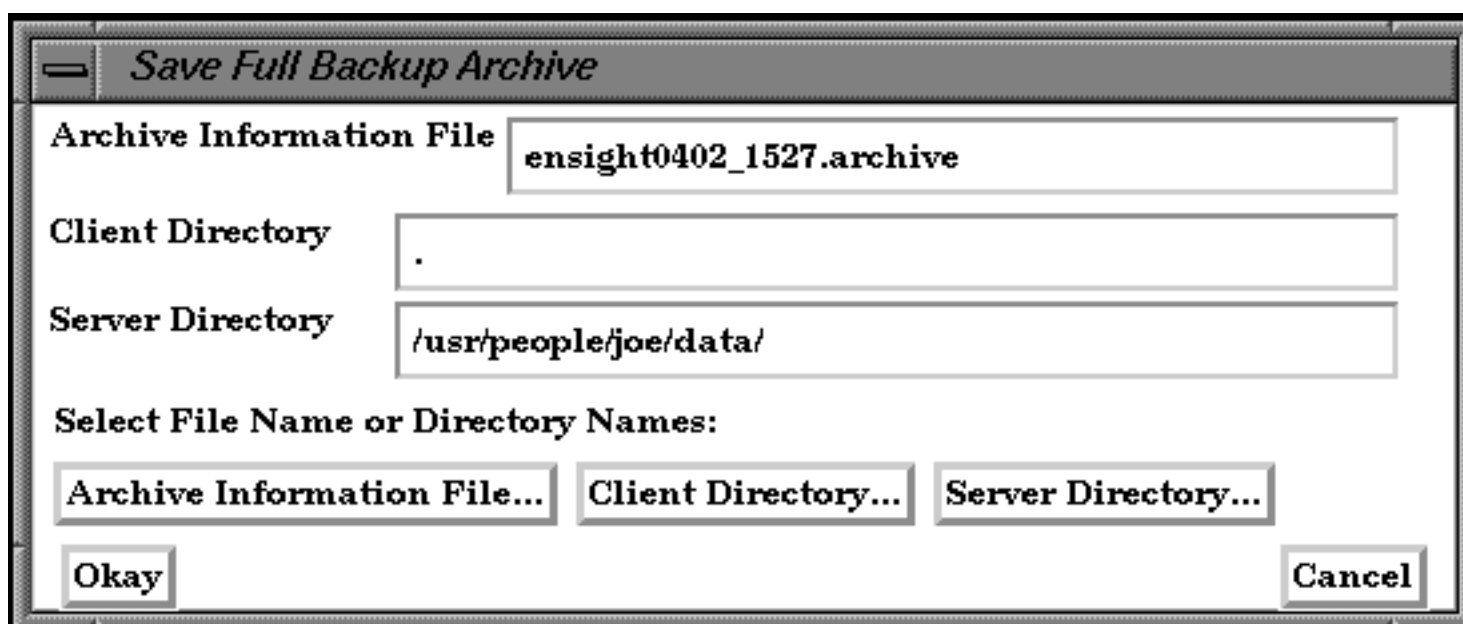
An EnSight archive consists of three files:

1. The Archive Information File. This file provides pointers to the client and server archive files as well as additional information required to load the archive. An example is given in the Advanced Usage section below.
2. The Client Archive file. This is the client's binary dump file.
3. The Server Archive file. This is the server's binary dump file.

Although each file has a default location, you can override the default during the archiving process.

### Saving an Archive

1. Close all open EnSight windows *except* the main window.
2. Select File > Save > Full Backup... to open the Save Full Backup Archive dialog.



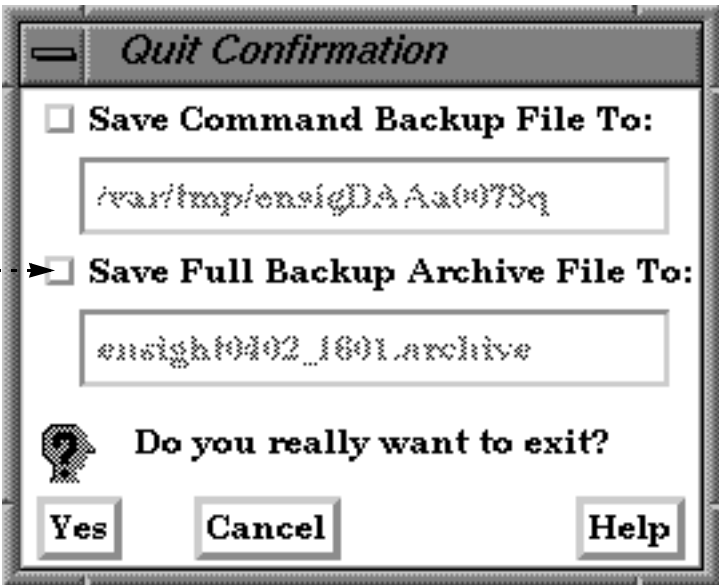
2. If desired, enter a new name for the Archive Information file. You can set the directory for the Archive Information File by clicking the Archive Information File... button to open a standard File Selection dialog.
3. If desired, select a directory for the client's binary dump file by either entering the directory in the Client Directory field or clicking the Client Directory... button to open a standard File Selection dialog.
4. If desired, select a directory for the server's binary dump file by either entering the directory in the Server Directory field or clicking the Server Directory... button to open a standard File Selection dialog.
5. Click Okay.

You also have the option of saving an archive as you exit EnSight.

1. Select File > Quit... to open the Quit Confirmation dialog.

2. Click the Save Full backup Archive To toggle and, if desired, enter a new name for the Archive information file.

3. Click Yes to save the archive and exit.



When saving an archive via the Quit Confirmation dialog, you do not have the option of specifying the directories for the archive files.

### Restoring an Archive

You can restore an archive either as part of EnSight startup or during an active session. To load an archive on startup:

1. Use the “-ar archive\_info\_file” option when you start EnSight. For example,

```
% ensight7 -ar load.ar
```

where load.ar is an Archive Information file saved in a previous session.

To restore an archive during an active session:

1. Select File > Restore > Full Backup... to open the File Selection dialog.
2. Select the desired Archive Information file and click Okay.
3. If the original connection (when the archive was saved) was manual, you will need to manually restart the server.

## ADVANCED USAGE

There are times when you may want to modify the contents of the Archive Information file. If you wish to use the archive on a different machine or change the location of the binary dump files, you can simply edit the file with a text editor. The following example shows the contents:

Date saved	Wed Apr 2 15:31:51 1997
Path to client's binary file	client ./ensight0402_153151.clientbkup
comment	# server for Case 'Case 1'. **Warning Don't Modify The Internal Number**.
Case internal number	case_internal_number 0
Case name	case_name Case 1
Connect type (auto or manual)	case_connect_type auto
Server host machine	case_connect_machine indigo2
Server executable	case_connect_executable /usr/local/bin/ensight/server/ensight.server
Server data directory	case_connect_directory /usr/people/joe/data
Alternate server login ID	case_connect_login_id
Path to server's binary file	server ./ensight_cl_0402_153151.serverbkup

Note that there will be a section for all the case\_ variables for each current case in the EnSight session. See [How To Load Multiple Datasets](#) for more information on cases.

### OTHER NOTES

**Important note!** Archives are typically *not* upwardly compatible with new major – and some minor – releases of EnSight. For this reason, the complete current command file is also saved as part of the client’s binary dump. If you attempt to restore an archive and EnSight determines that the archive is not compatible with the current release, the command file will be restored to a default location.

### SEE ALSO

User Manual: [Saving and Restoring a Full backup](#)